

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 45-74 are currently pending in the application. Claims 45-50 are allowed. Claims 1-12, 14-18, 29-37, 43, and 44 are rejected. Claims 45-50 are amended to address informalities. Claims 1-44 are canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to present claims 1-44 in a continuing patent application, which may be a divisional patent application, a continuation patent application, or a continuation-in-part patent application. Claims 51-74 are newly added. No new matter has been added.

Section 112, First Paragraph Rejection

Claims 1-5, 10-12, 14, and 29-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as being based on a disclosure that is not enabling. This rejection is respectfully traversed. However, in order to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicants have canceled claims 1-5, 10-12, 14, and 29-33 and respectfully request that the section 112, first paragraph rejection of claims 1-5, 10-12, 14, and 29-33 be withdrawn.

Section 112, Second Paragraph Rejection

Claims 1-5, 10-12, 14, and 29-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed. However, in order to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicants have canceled claims 1-5, 10-12, 14, and 29-33 and respectfully request that the section 112, second paragraph rejection of claims 1-5, 10-12, 14, and 29-33 be withdrawn.

Section 103 Rejection

Claims 6-9, 15-18, and 34-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lind et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0152508A1), referred to herein as Lind. This rejection is respectfully traversed. However, in order to expedite the prosecution of

this application, Applicants have canceled claims 6-9, 15-18, and 34-37. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 6-9, 15-18, and 34-37 be withdrawn.

New Claims

Claims 51-74 are newly added.

Claims 51 and 52 are similar to claims 2 and 3, respectively, as filed. Claims 55 and 56 are similar to claims 2 and 3, respectively, as filed. Further, the specification provides an example of the recitation of claim 57, which recites a “method for conducting a wagering game and associated progressive jackpot in accordance with claim 46, wherein adding the progressive jackpot contribution comprises adding the progressive jackpot contribution upon determining that the player inputs the second prize claiming input to claim the second individual interim pattern award”. The specification, describes, for example, in paragraphs 214 and 215:

During the course of an occurrence of the Bingo game, a player may match more than one interim pattern with patterns on the player's Bingo card. In one implementation where slept interim awards are forfeited, the *player may be deemed to have daubed and claimed any interim patterns matched by a batch of numbers when the player daubs within the time limit*, and to have slept any interim patterns matched by the batch if player fails to daub. As previously discussed, the resultant interim pattern award for the player may be either the total of award amounts corresponding to the claimed interim patterns, or the highest award amount corresponding to any claimed pattern. In instances where a player has slept an interim pattern award and has slept an interim pattern award, in order to more closely achieve the projected payout rate for the Bingo game, it may be desired to add the amount that a player lost by sleeping the interim pattern award to the progressive jackpot pool. Consequently, in one embodiment, the difference between the slept interim pattern award and the claimed interim pattern award may be added to the progressive jackpot pool if the slept interim pattern award was greater than the claimed interim pattern award.

In one scenario, a player may match a first interim pattern when a first batch of numbers is received at the gaming unit and match a second interim pattern when a second batch of numbers is received. If the player successfully daubs within the sleep time period associated with the first batch of numbers, the player may be guaranteed to receive at least the award amount associated with the claimed first interim pattern. When the second batch of numbers is received, if the

player fails to daub within the sleep time period associated with the second batch, and consequently slept the second interim pattern, the player may still be entitled to receive the first interim pattern award. At the conclusion of the occurrence of the Bingo game, the player may receive a payout for the first interim pattern award amount that was successfully claimed. If the award amount for the second interim pattern award was greater than the award amount for the first interim pattern award, the player's failure to claim the second interim pattern award resulted in a net loss of the difference between the award amounts. In this case, the gaming unit 20 may transmit a message to the progressive jackpot network computer to add the difference between the award amounts to the progressive jackpot pool. If the slept award amount is less than the claimed award amount, the player is in no worse position than if the player had claimed the second interim pattern award and, consequently, no amount may be required to be added to the progressive jackpot pool to compensate for the player's failure to claim the second interim pattern award.
(Emphasis added)

The specification also provides an example of the recitation of claim 58, which recites a “method for conducting a wagering game and associated progressive jackpot in accordance with claim 46, wherein each of the first and second interim pattern awards is separate from a game-winning award, wherein the game-winning award is awarded at an end of the wagering game”.

As an example, the specification describes in paragraph 132:

In order to enhance the players' gaming experience while playing the multi-player Bingo game, the Bingo game may be configured with alternative methods for providing additional award payouts to the players, including players that are not the first to match the game-winning pattern. In one embodiment, players may be awarded prizes for matching predefined interim patterns on their Bingo cards having associated award amounts during the course of the Bingo game. *The patterns may be termed "interim" because the patterns may be matched during the course of the game, and the patterns do not result in the termination of the game when they are matched. The Bingo game terminates only when one or more players match the game-winning pattern.* When a player matches an interim win pattern, the player may be awarded the prize amount corresponding to the matched interim pattern regardless of whether the player matches the game-winning pattern.
(Emphasis added)

Claims 59 and 60 are similar to claims 2 and 3, respectively, as filed. Further, claim 61 is

similar to claim 57 and claim 62 is similar to claim 58. Claims 63 and 64 are similar to claims 2 and 3, respectively, as filed. Further, claim 65 is similar to claim 57 and claim 66 is similar to claim 58. Claims 67 and 68 are similar to claims 2 and 3, respectively, as filed. Further, claim 69 is similar to claim 57 and claim 70 is similar to claim 58. Claims 71 and 72 are similar to claims 2 and 3, respectively, as filed. Further, claim 73 is similar to claim 57 and claim 74 is similar to claim 58.

Claims 51-54 depend from independent claim 45, which is allowed. Accordingly, claims 51-54 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 55-58 depend from independent claim 46, which is allowed. Accordingly, claims 55-58 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 59-62 depend from independent claim 47, which is allowed. Accordingly, claims 59-62 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 63-66 depend from independent claim 48, which is allowed. Accordingly, claims 63-66 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 67-70 depend from independent claim 49, which is allowed. Accordingly, claims 67-70 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 71-74 depend from independent claim 50, which is allowed. Accordingly, claims 71-74 are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited and Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (510) 663-1100.

Respectfully submitted,

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